

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 12-CF-1083-A

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

GEORGE ZIMMERMAN,

Defendant(s).

_____ /

ORDER DIRECTING THAT JURORS' IDENTITIES BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL

The Defendant has requested that the identities of all persons summoned to be part of the jury venire in this high-profile case be kept confidential. This includes restrictions on the release of certain personal information and demographic data. Furthermore, the Defendant requests that the Court prohibit these persons from being photographed by media outlets during their jury service.

With the limitations set forth herein, the motion will be granted. The jurors' identities and addresses will be known to the attorneys of record so that they may properly inquire during voir dire. However, the participants shall refer to those jurors by the juror number assigned to them by the Clerk of the Court and shall also not disclose the jurors' current residential addresses or places of employment.¹ This is to be done in order to protect the prospective jurors from harassment and pressure from the public at large. *Sunbeam Television Corp. v. State*, 723 So. 2d 275, 279 (Fla. 3d DCA 1998). The jurors will be properly instructed that the anonymity is for their protection from media harassment and shall not impact the Defendant's presumption of innocence.²

¹ This Court is without authority to restrict the disclosure of the jurors' demographic information.

² This Court cannot prevent prospective jurors from identifying themselves as such prior to the start of trial. Of course, in doing so, such jurors will be exposing themselves to media scrutiny.

See *State v. Bowles*, 531 N.W. 521, 531 (Minn. 1995). This order is not intended to prevent the media entities from reporting on or disclosing information disclosed during voir dire. *Sunbeam Television Corp.*, 723 So. 2d at 281.

The Defendant also requests that the jurors be sequestered in the courthouse upon arrival. This Court finds that such drastic measures are unnecessary and, in fact, not practical based upon the resources available to the Court.

The Defendant has also requested that the jurors not be photographed during the course of the trial. The media entities that originally objected to such request later agreed, based upon their own policies, not to photograph the jurors during the course of the trial. The Court accepts the media entities' representations and will accordingly preclude those entities from photographing any person on the jury venire for this matter during their time of jury service. See *Sunbeam Television Corp.*, 723 So. 2d at 279.

It is **ORDERED**:

1. The Clerk of the Court shall not release to the public the names of the jurors called to be part of the venire in this case.
2. The request to sequester the entire jury venire prior to and during jury selection is **denied**.
3. The parties shall not identify the jurors by their names during voir dire. The jurors shall only be identified by the parties by their given juror numbers.
4. Prospective jurors may not be photographed or identified during the course of jury selection. Such prohibition shall be lifted upon their release from jury service by the Court.
5. Sitting jurors shall not be identified or photographed during the course of the trial.

5 **DONE AND ORDERED** in chambers at Sanford, Seminole County, Florida this day of June, 2013.


DEBRA S. NELSON, Circuit Judge

Copies furnished this 5 day of June, 2013 to:

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